

# US FOREST SERVICE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

## *REPORT TO CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY*

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January 27, 2016



# REPORT CONTENTS

- Agreements and Partnerships
- Farm Bill Tool Kit - Insect and Disease Designation, Good Neighbor Authority
- Prescribed Fire MOU
- Regional Summary Data
  - Tree Mortality Trends, 2005-2015
  - Wildland Fires & Fuels Treatment, FY 2015
  - Timber Volume, FY 2015



# STATE AGENCY & USFS AGREEMENTS

- **California Natural Resources Agency/USFS**
  - CA Headwaters Partnership
  - Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program
  - Good Neighbor Authority MOU
- **CalFire/USFS**
  - Managed Fire MOU



# CALIFORNIA HEADWATERS PARTNERSHIP

- White House named seven Resilient Lands and Waters regions
- Only region named with state and federal co-leads

Not a formal designation, highlights and knits together existing collaborative efforts

- Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration
- Fire Adapted 50 (CalFire and USFS)
- South Fork American River
- Firescape Mendocino



# CA HEADWATERS OBJECTIVES

- Identify priority areas for conservation, restoration, and investment
- Build resilience, enhance carbon storage capacity
- Develop landscape-scale strategies to assist in planning & management

## California Headwaters



# SIERRA NEVADA WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (WIP)

- Co-Leads - Sierra Nevada Conservancy & USFS
- State, local and federal agencies and stakeholders
- Framework for restoring watersheds to resiliency
- Focused on 2 key outcomes
  - Increase funding for watershed restoration
  - Identify and address key policy issues affecting the pace and scale of restoration





# SIERRA NEVADA WIP GOALS

- Restore and protect the health of forests, soils, streams & meadows
- Reduce GHG emissions and stabilize carbon storage
- Reduce the risk of mega-wildfires
- Improve habitat conditions
- Preserve working landscapes
- Improve local socio-economic conditions
- Improve water quality and quantity
- Protect air quality



# OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE

- SN WIP Summit: *The Forest Carbon Story*
- March 3, 2016; 9:00am to 12:30pm
- California Natural Resources Agency
- Auditorium
- [www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov)
- [www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

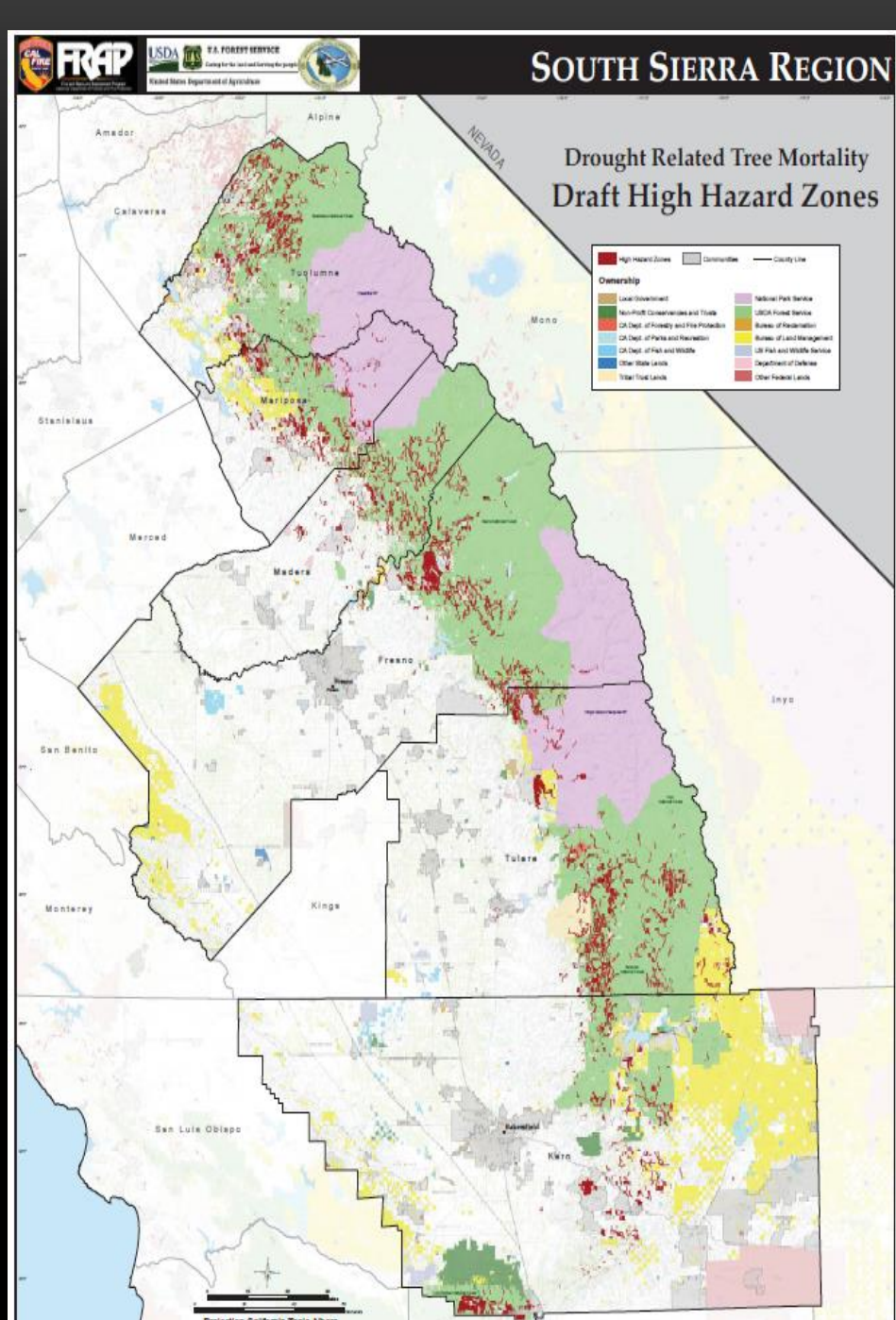




# TREE MORTALITY & CALIFORNIA TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE

- Aerial surveys conducted annually cover all CA National Forests, forested National Parks, and most state & private lands
  - Mapped mortality area increased from 909,000 ac (2014) to 2,910,000 ac (2015)
  - Individual tree mortality estimates rose from about 3.3M (2014) to 29.1M (2015)
- Dramatic increase driven by prolonged drought conditions





# DROUGHT RELATED TREE MORTALITY

- Draft High Hazard Zones
- South Sierra Region
- Stanislaus NF, Sierra NF, Inyo NF, and Los Padres NF





# FARM BILL 2014 PROVISIONS

- **Insect/Disease Designations** - Chief approved (November 2015) additional 5.3M ac (total with 2014 = 6.7 million acres)
  - Portions of all 18 national forests
  - Expedited NEPA opportunities
    - 3,000 ac with Categorical Exclusion
    - Expedited Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements



# FARM BILL 2014 PROVISIONS

- **Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)**
  - Tool allowing the Governor or State natural resources agencies, in partnership with the USFS, to perform forest, rangeland, & watershed restoration activities on National Forests
  - Most types of funding can be used
  - Benefits - Cost savings and economies of scale, access, and increased capacity





# PREScribed FIRE MOU

## Stipulated by settlement agreement - 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment

- Requires USFS, Sierra Forest Legacy and others to execute MOU for increased use of managed fire
- Promotes expanded use of fire for resource and social benefits
- Calls for a broader suite of tools to restore resilience and protect communities





# PRESCRIBED FIRE MOU - PARTNERS

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and National Park Service
- Northern California Prescribed Fire Council and Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council
- The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, and Center for Biological Diversity

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE USE OF FIRE TO MEET  
ECOLOGICAL AND OTHER MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES  
Between the  
USDA, FOREST SERVICE  
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION  
AND  
SIERRA FOREST LEGACY,  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY,  
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY,  
USDI, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PACIFIC REGION,  
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY,  
THE SIERRA CLUB,  
CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL,  
SOUTHERN SIERRA PRESCRIBED FIRE COUNCIL

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) is hereby made and entered into by and between Sierra Forest Legacy, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, State of California Sierra Nevada Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, The Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, USDI National Park Service-Pacific Region, Northern California Prescribed Fire Council, Southern Sierra Prescribed Fire Council, hereinafter referred to as "MOU Partners," and the USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, hereinafter referred to as the "U.S. Forest Service."

# PREScribed FIRE MOU

Kick-off media event and implementation meeting  
February 2-3, 2016

- Media call - February 2, 10:30am, Q&A session
  - Chief Ken Pimlott, CalFire
  - Regional Forester Randy Moore, USFS
  - Craig Thomas, Sierra Forest Legacy Conservation Director
  - Executive Director Jim Branham, SNC
  - Nick Goulette, Prescribed Fire Council representative



# FIRES - FY 2015

Wildland Fires - Total of 1,657 fires  
on 537,000 ac

- Human-caused: 619 fires,  
54,000 ac
- Lightning-caused: 1,038 fires,  
483,000 ac



# FUELS REDUCTION - FY 2015

- Fuels Treatments (FY15 Target): **137,300 ac**
  - Exceeded target – Over **186,200 ac** accomplished
- NFS Fuels Treatments
  - Prescribed – **39,000 ac**
  - Mechanical – **97,200 ac**
  - Managed – **50,000 ac**





# TIMBER VOLUME, FY 2015

Targeted volume of 700,000 CCF

- Fire Salvage - 231,791 CCF
- Green - 456,016 CCF
- Total - 687,807 CCF

Accomplished 98% of target





# WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

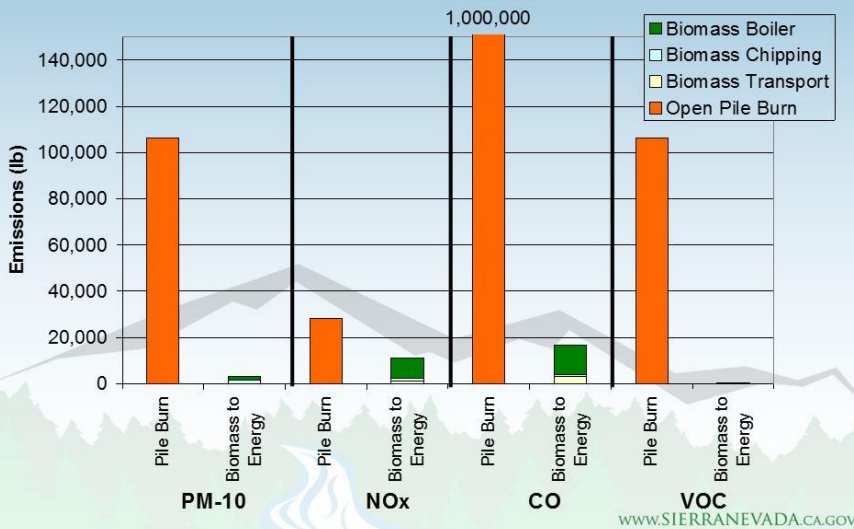


# POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING AIR QUALITY & REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS

- About 500,000 ac of annual restoration treatments on USFS managed lands would restore forest health and help keep pace with future forest growth
- Converting biomass from forest restoration into energy rather than piling and burning **reduces** greenhouse gas emissions.

## Air Quality Benefits

Results from biomass energy project that processed 6,800 BDT biomass from thinning project on USFS Tahoe National Forest American River District



# THE CHALLENGE IS OURS

- Infrastructure lacking in most of the state
- Need to protect existing bioenergy facilities
- Need strategically located new bioenergy facilities
- Need innovative wood product facilities
  - Cross Laminated Timber, Oriented Strand Board, and Green Veneer
- Funding for forest activities
  - Fire funding solutions, Water Bond, Cap and Trade, etc.





# QUESTIONS?

Jeanne Wade Evans

[www.fs.usda.gov/r5](http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5)

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